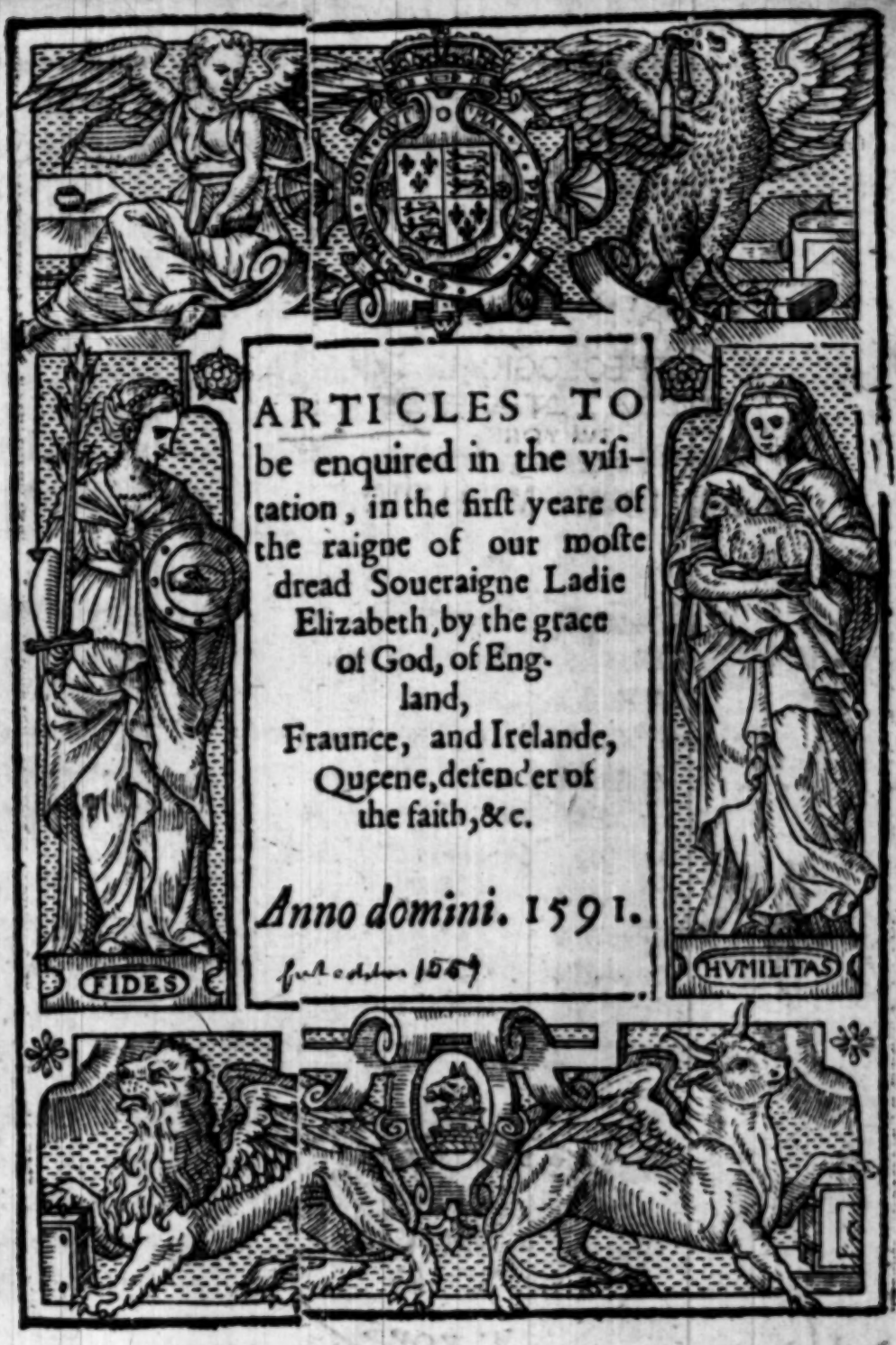
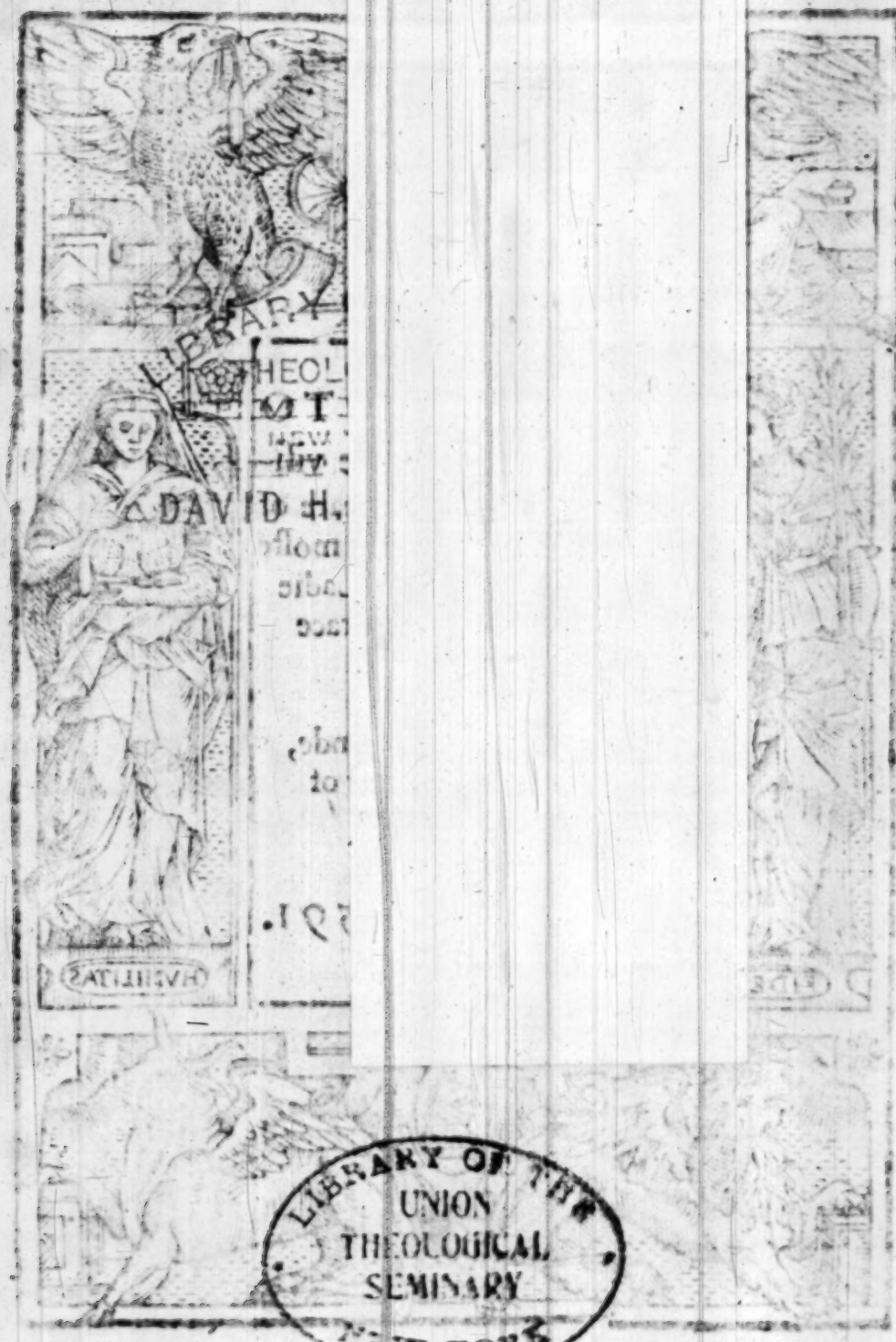



# ARTICLES TO be enquired in the visitation, in the first yeare of the raigne of our moste dread Soueraigne Ladie Elizabeth, by the grace of God, of England, Fraunce, and Irelande, Quene, defender of the faith, &c.

*Anno domini.* 1591.

first edition 1561



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Fist, whether anie Parson, Vicar or Curat be resident cōtinually vpon his benefice doing his duetie in Preaching, reading and duely ministring the holie Sacraments. 1 Resident.

Item, whether in their Churches & Chappels, all images, shrines, all tables, candlesticks, trindelles, and rolles of ware, pictures, paintinges, and all other monuments of faigned and false myracles, pilgrimages, Idolatrie, and superstition, be remoued, abolished, and destroyed. 2 False myracles.

Item, whether they doe not euerie holie day when they haue no Sermon, immediatly after the Gospell, openly, plainely and distinctly, recite to there parishioners in the pulpit, the Lords prayer, the beliefe, and the ten commandements in English. 3 The Lords prayer.

Item, whether they doe charge Fathers and mothers, maisters and gouernours of youth, to bring them vp in some vertuous studie and occupation. 4 To bring vp youth.

Curates. 5 Item, whether such beneficed men, as bee lawfully absent from their benefices, doe leaue their cures to a rude and vnlearned person, and not to an honest, well learned, and expert Curat, which can, and will teache you wholsome doctrine.

Reading the scripture. 6 Item, whether they do discourage any person from reading of any part of the Byble, either in Latine or English, and doe not rather comfort and exhort euery person to read the same at conuenient times, as the very liuely worde of God, and the speciall food of mans soule.

Tauerns and games. 7 Item, whether Parsons, Vicars, Curats, and other ministers, be common haunters and resorters to Tauernes, or Alehouses, giuing themselues to drinking, rioting, and playing at vnlawfull games, and doe not occupie themselues in the reading or hearing of some parte of holye scripture, or in some other godly exercise.

Preachers. 8 Item, whether they haue admitted any man to preache in their Cures, not beeing lawfully licensed thereunto, or haue beene licensed accordingly.

Superstition. 9 Item, whether they vse to declare to their parishioners, any thing to the extolling or setting foorth of vaine and superstitious religion, pilgrimages, reliques, or images, or lighting of candels,

candels, kissing, kneeling, or derking of the same images.

Item, whether they haue one booke or register kept, wherein they write the day of euerie wedding, christning and burying. 10 Register.

Item, whether they haue exhorted the people to obedience to the Queenes Maiestie and Ministers, and to charitie and to loue one another. 11 Obedience.

Item, whether they haue admonished their parishioners, that they ought not to presume to receyue the Sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, before they can saye perfectly the Lordes prayer, the articles of the faith, and the ten commaundements in English. 12 The Sacrament.

Item, whether they be resident vpon their benefices, & keepe hospitalitie or no. And if they bee absent and keepe no hospitalitie, whether they do relieue their parishioners, & what they giue thē. 13 Hospitalitie.

Item, whether Propietaries, Parsons, Vicars, and Clearks, hauing Churches, Chappels, and Mansions, do keepe their Chauncels, Rectories, Vicarages, and all other houses appertaining to them in due reparations. 14 Reparations.

Item, whether they do counsaile or moue their parishioners, rather to pray in a tongue not knowen, then in English, or put their trust in anye cer- 15 Prayer in English.

Beades. certaine number of prayers, as in saying ouer a number of Beades, or other like.

16 Item, whether they haue receyued anye persons to the Communion, being openly knowne to be out of charitie with theyr neighbours, or diffamed with any notorious crime, and not reformed.

Defamed persons.

17 Item, whether they haue prouided, and haue a strong chest for the poore mens Bore, and set and fastened the same in a place of the church, most conuenient?

Poore mens boxe.

18 Item, whether they haue diligently called vpon, exhorted and moued their parishioners, and especially when they make their testaments, to giue to the said poore mens boxe, and to bestowe that vppon the poore, which they were woont to bestow vpon pilgrimages, pardons, trentalles, and vpon other like blinde deuotions.

Testament.

19 Item, whether they haue denyed to visite the sicke, or burie the dead being brought to the church.

Sicke. Burials.

20 Item, whether they haue bought their Benefices, or come to them by fraude, guile, deceite, or simonie.

Simonie.

21 Item, whether they haue giuen open monition to their parishioners, to detect and present

Adulterers.

to

to their ordinarie al aduulterers and fornicators, and such men as haue two wiues liuing within their parishes.

Item, whether they haue monished their parishioners openly, that they shoulde not sell, giue, nor otherwise alienate, anie of their Church goods 22 Church goods.

Item whether they, or any of them do keepe mo benefices and other Ecclesiasticall promotions then they ought to doe, not hauing sufficient licences, and dispensations thereunto, and how many they be, and their names 23 Manie benefices.

Item, whether they minister the holy Communion any otherwyse then onelie after such forme and manner, as it is set foorth by the common authoritie of the Queens Maiestie, and the Parliament. 24 Communion.

Item, whether you know anie person within your Parish or elsewhere, that is a letter of the worde of God to bee read in English, or sincerely preached in place and times conuenient. 25 Letter of the worde or preaching.

Item, whether in the time of the Letanie, or any other common prayer, in the time of the sermon or Homilie, and when the Priest readeth the Scriptures to the Parishioners, anie person haue departed out of the Church without iust and necessarie cause, or disturbe the Minister 26 Goers out of the Church.

Minister otherwise.

Church money.

27 Item, whether the money comming and ryſing of any cattell, or other moueable ſtockes of the Church, and money giuen and bequeathed to the finding of Torches, Lightes, Tapers, or Lampes, not payed out of any landes haue not beene employed to the poore mens cheſt.

Keapers of the Church money.

28 Item, who hath the ſayde ſtockes and money in their handes, and what be their names.

Contempt of Priests.

29 Item, whether any vndiſcrete perſon doe vncharitably contemne, and abuſe prieſts and Miniſters of the Church.

The kings Grammer.

30 Item, whether there be any other Grammer taught in any ſchoole within this Dioceſſe, then that which is ſet foorth by the authoritie of king Henrie the eight.

The time of Seruice.

31 Item, whether the ſeruice of the Church bee done at due and conuenient howers.

Talkers in the Church.

32 Item, whether any haue vſed to commune, iangle, and talke in the Church in the time of the prayer, reading of the Homilie, preaching, reading or declaring of the ſcripture.

Heresies.

33 Item, whether any haue wilfully maintayned, and defended any hereſies, errours, or falſe opinion, contrarie to the faith of Chriſt and holy ſcripture.

Item,

Item, whether any bee common drunkardes, swearers, or blasphemers of the name of God. 34 Drunkards.

Item, whether any haue committed adulterie, fornication or incest, or bee common bawdes, or receyuers of such euill persons, are vehemently suspected of any of the premisses. 35 Adulterers.

Item, whether any be brawlers, slaunderers, chyders, scholders, & sowers of discord betweene one person and another. 36 Brawlers.

Item, whether you knowe anye that doe vse charmes, sorceries, inchauntmentes, inuocations, circles, witchcrafts, soothsayings, or any like craftes or imaginations inuented by the Deuill, and specially in the time of womens trauaile. 37 Sorcerers.

Item, whether the Churches, Pulpettes, and other necessaries appertayning to the same, bee sufficiently repayred, and if they be not, in whose default the same is. 38 Pulpets.

Item, whether you knowe anye, that in contempt of their owne Parish Church doe resorte to any other Church. 39 Resorters to other Churches.

Item, whether any Inholders, or Alehouse keepers, doe vse commonly to sell meate & drinke in the time of common prayer, preaching, reading of the Homelies, or scripture. 40 Inholders.

Deuorse. 41 Item, whether you know any to bee maryed within the degrees prohibited by the Lawes of God, or that bee separated or diuorsed without the degrees prohibited by the lawe of God, and whether any such haue maried againe.

Priuie contracts. 42 Item, whether you know any to haue made priuie contracts of matrimonie, not calling two or moe witnesses thereunto, nor hauing thereto the consent of their parents.

Banes. 43 Item, whether they haue maried solemnelie, the banes not first lawfully asked.

Executours. 44 Item, whether you knowe any executors, or administratours of dead mens goods, which doe not onely bestowe such of the saide goodes, as were giuen and bequeathed, or appoynted to be distributed among the poore people, repairing of high waies, finding of poore schollers, or marrying of poore maidens, or other such like charitable deedes.

Images. 45 Item, whether you knowe any that keepe in their houses any vndefaced Images, Tables, Pictures, paintings, or other Monumentes of faigned and false miracles, pilgrimages, idolatrie and superstition, and do adore them, and specially such as haue beene set vp in Churches Chappels and Oratories.

Bookes. 46 Item, what bookes of holy Scripture you haue

haue deliuered to be burnt, or otherwise destroied, and to whom ye haue deliuered the same.

Item, what bribes the accusars, promoters, persecutors ecclesiasticall Judges, and other the Commissioners appoynted within the seuerall Diocesse of this Realme, haue receiued by themselues, or other of those persons which were in trouble, apprehended or imprisoned for Religion. 47 Bribes.

Item, what goods moueable, lands, fees, offices, or promotions, hath bin wrongfully taken awaye in the time of Queene Maries raigne, from anye person which fauoured the Religion now set foorth. 48 Losse of goodes.

Item, howe many persons for religion haue died by fyre, famine, or otherwise, or haue beene imprisoned for the same. 49 How many burnt.

Item, that you make a true presentment of the number of all the persons which dyed within your Parishes, sithence the feast of S. John the Baptist, which was in the yeare of our lord God a thousand fiue hundred fiftie and eight, vnto the same feast last past, making there in a plaine distinct declaration, howe many men, women, and men childzen the same were, and the names of the men. 50 Certificat of the dead.

Item, whether you knowe any man in your 51 Secrete

parish, secretly, or in vnlawfull conuenticles, say, or heare Masse, or any other seruice prohibited by the law.

False rumors Vnlawfull bookes.

52 Item, whether you know any person in your parish, to be a slaunderer of his neighbours, or a sower of discord betweene partie and partie, man and wife, parents & their children, or that hath inuented, bruted, or set foorth any rumours, false and seditious tales, slaunders, or makers, bringers, buiers, sellers, keepers, or conueyers of any vnlawful bokes, which might stirre and prouoke sedition, or maintaine superstitious seruice with in this realme, or any ayders, counsaylers, procurers or mainteyners therunto,

Patrone. Tithes. Vacation.

53 Item, whether the Church of your Parish bee now vacant or no, who is the patrone thereof, how long it hath beue vacant, who doth receiue the tithes, oblations, and other commodities, during the time of the vacation, and by what authoritie, and in what estate the sayde Church is, at this time, and how long the Parson or Vicar hath had that benefice.

Minstrels.

54 Item, whether any Minstrelles, or any other persons doe vse to sing or say any songs, or Ditties that be vile or vncleane, and specially in derision of any godly order now set forth and established.

Letanie in English.

55 Item whether the Letanie in Englishe with the

the Epistle & gospel which was by the Queenes highnesse proclamation willed to be read to the people, were put in vse in your Churches, and if not, who were the letters thereof.

Item, whether the Curates and Ministers doe leysurely, plainely, and distinctly reade the publique prayers, Chapters and Homilies, as they ought to doe. 56 Distinct.

*God saue the Queene.*

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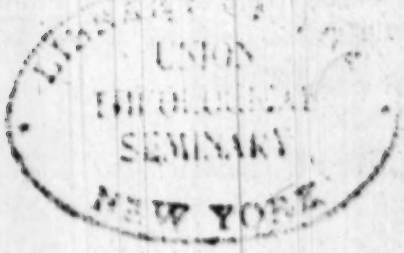
Cum priuilegio Regiæ Maiestatis.